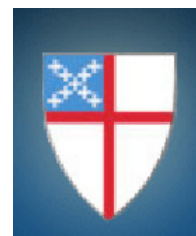


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# St. Luke's Newsletter



March, 2016

*“To Know  
Christ and To  
Make Christ  
Known”*

*2016 Parish  
Theme:*

*“Witness  
Wamego Go  
Beyond!”*

**Our Vestry members** are Jay Hildreth (Senior Warden), Doug Elcock (Junior Warden, Treasurer), Cinnie Hill (Clerk), Cliff Robb, Claudia McKinsey, Levi Hannan with Ed Dillinger as his mentor and proxy, Thomas Brown

## Rector's page

**Rector's Page:** How Baptism Holds and Carries Us Throughout Life: An Inquiring Mind and Discerning Heart

Please note well, this is a theological discourse based on the presupposition that the give and receive below is within the framework of contemplative prayer. It is also noteworthy that this comes forward as an oblation during our holy observance of Lent, which prepares each of us to receive the gift of Grace.

Finally, take heart that I am sharing this teaching for all of us, but especially in honor of those candidates for Holy Baptism. Recently, at a spontaneous gathering of several families from our parish family I was given the opportunity to speak of sacraments and Holy Baptism as the churches initial entry point or sacred rite of initiation, as it were. What is presented below is a commentary on what was shared in person on February 21 during our impromptu 'Inquirer's Class.'

Quest 1:

Can we say that Jesus Christ was a prophet like any other prophets? Or Is there any difference between a prophet and Jesus of Nazareth who is the Christ (Messiah, "the one coming") and Son of God?

Response 1:

As Christians: We cannot say that Jesus Christ was just a prophet. There is a subtle difference between a prophet and the Son of God.

First, the concept of 'the Son of God' is not a metaphysical concept, but a metaphorical concept. It refers to the universal consciousness. It refers to the human consciousness that is united with the whole of humanity and of creation and lives for the welfare of the whole of creation.

There are four stages in our evolution of consciousness: 1.) an individual son of God or daughter of God; 2.) a collective son of God and the collective daughter of God (collective belief systems); 3.) the universal son of God or the daughter of God; 4.) union with God or realizing that God alone is.

The Son of God or the Daughter of God belongs to the third level.

Every individual son of God or daughter of God has the potential to grow into the Son of God and the Daughter of God, which is growing into the universal consciousness that is boundless and infinite love.

1. A prophet experiences the God of transcendence: The Son of God experiences the indwelling presence of God.
2. A prophet experiences being a creature of God: The Son of God experiences being the manifestation of God or incarnation of God.

3. A prophet speaks in the name of God: 'thus says the Lord': The Son of God says ' I say unto you'.
4. A prophet experiences the God of authority, reward and punishment: The Son of God experiences the God of freedom and unconditional love.
5. A Prophet tells what people should do and should not do: The Son of God reveals who human beings are in their deepest level.
6. A prophet demands the submission of 'will, intellect and loyalty': The Son of God gives back will and intellect and does not demand exclusive loyalty, but establishes unity.
7. A prophet establishes a collective group, an exclusive group: The Son of God breaks down all the barriers and establishes one God, one creation and one humanity.
8. A prophet writes on the 'tablets of stone': The Son of God writes on the sand.
9. A prophet and the Law go together: The Son of God fulfills the Law and the Prophets. He transcends both.
10. A prophet says ' the Law is the way, the truth and the life': The Son of God says ' I am the way, the truth and the life' and invites everyone to realize this possibility.
11. A prophet may create an exclusive group and have the mission of expanding this group through propagation: The Son of God sees that everyone is already in God and there is an essential unity of God, creation and humanity. He or she invites everyone to grow from the collective consciousness to the unitary consciousness with the divine.
12. A prophet may initiate a new religion or a new belief system: The Son of God does not initiate a new religion but a new human consciousness that goes beyond religious labels. He initiates universal consciousness and proclaims the dignity of human beings that they are greater than religions or belief systems.
13. A prophet asks the people to keep the Sabbath: The Son of God says, "The Sabbath is made for human beings and not human beings for the sake of the Sabbath."
14. A prophet says that the Law is the light for the people: The Son of God says, "I am the light of the world" and "you are the light of the world."
15. A prophet might establish a spirituality based on religion in which first comes religion, second comes God as understood by that religion and third comes a human being who has to worship God in that religion: The Son of God establishes a spirituality founded on God (the kingdom of God) in which first comes God who is greater than religions and human beings; second comes human beings who in their image and likeness of God are greater than religions and third come religions, as belief systems, which are meant to be at the service of human beings and not human beings at the service of religions. The Son of God transforms religions into nests in which human beings are born, protected, nourished and given security until they are ready to fly into the freedom of the kingdom of God.

Hence Jesus Christ is not a prophet like any other prophet. He is the fulfillment of the prophets. Jesus Christ does not give a Law. He is the fulfillment of the Law. He is the Son of God, the universal consciousness. He invites everyone both men and women to enter into this consciousness. The repentance or conversion that Jesus proposed is not a conversion from one religion to another religion but from the religious consciousness to the universal consciousness and ultimately unity with the divine consciousness. It is a conversion from divisions to unity, from 'I and mine or ours' to God.

This is an adaptation of a teaching received from my fellow contemplative, Brother Martin, OSB Cam. It is now for all of us to ponder over the next few weeks or months or lifetime.

*Father ~ Matt*

**Senior Warden's Message:**

This week I am shaken by the untimely death of Kyle Hunt. My prayers go out for Kathy, Steve, and Cody in their time of loss.

For the last quarter the Vestry and Father Matt have been working out details to an update to Father Matt's letter of agreement. The update has been sent to the Bishop for his approval. When we receive the confirmation of the Bishop's approval a letter of understanding will be drafted by the Vestry explaining how Father Matt's compensation will alter if it becomes necessary for him to be absent from our parish for longer times that we have mutually anticipated.

Eric Benson is in the final stages of testing the Dillon's Grocery Store Donation Program. Claudia McKinsey started the initiative and Eric has been following up. Under this program individuals that purchase groceries at Dillon's can direct that the store donates 3% of their purchase amount be donated to the Church's Treasury. Claudia has explained to the Vestry how the program worked for her in Topeka when she attended the Cathedral.

With Christ's Love,  
*Jay Hildreth*

**Junior Warden:**

1. The illumination of the west window can be accomplished by use of the two hanging lights by the window. The next step will be to have a timer installed for evening hours.
2. We have a recycling container from Tri County trash service. The allowable items are posted on the refrigerator.
3. Repair work will be completed soon on the east kitchen door to make it more secure.

*Doug Elcock*

**TTEM Breakfast:**

Our next breakfast will be Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please contribute time, food, or money toward this outreach. Look for the new sign-up sheet in Guild Hall. We would like someone to sign up to make the special of the day too.

**Guild:**

The Guild has scholarship money for children who wish to attend church camp this summer. Applications are being accepted.

**Sunday School:** Emily will teach the older students and Myrline will be teaching the younger students.

**Wednesday Night Ministry:** Wednesday night on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the group made a presentation using the letters of the alphabet to portray people or ideas from the Holy Bible. For instance: A was used for Adam; B for Bible, C for Creation and so forth. Songs were sung at various intervals.

Through the season of Lent booklets titled "What is Lent?" are being used. They consist of coloring and other activities to help the children understand Lent.

The flowers on the Guild Hall tables have been replaced with bare, broken branches during the season of Lent.

The group is working on a song to sing on Palm Sunday. If you have children who want to participate, come join us Wednesday evenings – 6:00 is potluck and the activities start when dinner is completed between 6:30 and 7.

*Claudia McKinsey*

**Prayers:**

*We pray for those who are ill or are caregivers:* David, Doreen, Alice, Cinnie, JP, Kay, Kent, KoKo, Lynn, Mickey and Lisa, Outlet Club, Yasche, Dick, Pam

*We pray for those who need access to resources:* Rosetta

*We pray for our Military personnel:* Ben, Ian, Luke, Mike, Molly, and Scott

**Community Health Ministry**

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 7-9 Chocolate, Cheers and Creation, at the Columbian Theatre: See Pat, Eric, Ed for more details.

CHM can't function without volunteers and they need YOUR help! Contact Angel Hecht at [angel@heartforhim.org](mailto:angel@heartforhim.org) or (785)294-1129 to volunteer.

The **Council of Churches** is working to organize the **5K Run and 1 Mile Walk** fund raiser for Community Health Ministry. It will be held Saturday, April 9 at the Sports Complex, Hiway 24 and Balderson Blvd. The Race begins at 8:00 a.m.

This is the former Walk For Warmth. Last year we raised approx. \$5,000. This is another way to help those in need in our community. But if you choose not to walk or run, please consider sponsoring one of the church members who will participate.

For signup info, <https://runsignup.com/Race/KS/Wamego/RunforWarmth> or check out the bulletin board or the information table. Ask Joyce or Ed.

**BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH:**

March 16-Owen Balderson  
March 13-Beth Galligan

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

March 17-Ed & Cheri Pugh

**Vestry:**

The Vestry approved the proposed budget and Father Matt's compensation package resolution.

The officers are: Jay Hildreth, Senior Warden; Doug Elcock, Junior Warden and Treasurer; and Cinnie Hill, Clerk. Thomas Brown, Levi, Hannan with Ed Dillinger as his mentor and proxy, Claudia McKinsey, and Cliff Robb are the members. Be sure to talk to any of them if you have a questions or concerns.

The Vestry accepted a memorial contribution for John Desper's aunt to help pay for the new water heater. Anyone wishing to add to this memorial can give a check to our treasurer.

An electrician is being asked to look at the lighting situation for the west stained glass window in the Church. We have some money set aside for this project.

### **Very important information about Easter services from your Newsletter Editor :**

- We are adding the **Great Easter Vigil** this year at St. Luke's on Easter Saturday, March 26 starting at 7 pm. Claudia McKinsey is helping Father Matt design the service and will be playing the organ. All are welcome to attend. The other services are listed under the monthly calendar.
- This Easter there will be **several baptisms** at the **Vigil** and on **Easter Sunday**. Help welcome the new church members.
- Please bring **plastic eggs** with a toy or other gift inside them to church by Easter Sunday for the Easter Egg Hunt after the service.
- We will be doing the **Flowering of the Cross Easter Sunday** so bring your flowers and greenery to decorate our cross.
- Sign up in Guild Hall to contribute to our annual **Easter Breakfast**. Bring Easter Breakfast Casserole and Easter Fruit Salad. Recipes will be available beside the sign up form. We need at least 6 people for each item.
- Cinnie is looking for a volunteer to help with the newsletter at times when she is out-of-town. Please contact her if you are interested.
- All new church attendees are being asked to complete a membership directory form. Please take one from the clerk box (on the top row of mailboxes) in the Sacristy, if you haven't completed one. A new directory will be emailed / published after all the forms are received. Please place them back in the clerk's box when they are completed.

**To receive the Diocesan News twice a month, send an email with the subject "Dialog" to the Diocese Publications. [mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org)**

### **MARCH SCHEDULE:**

Sunday, March 6: 9:30 am – Father Mark Jeske will preside at the service  
 11 am - Guild meeting  
 5 pm – Ultreya at St. Luke's. Potluck following the meeting.

Sunday, March 13: 8:15 am – Vestry meeting

Thursday, March 17: 7:30-9 am: - TTEM Community Breakfast

Sunday, March 20: 9:30 am – Palm Sunday – service begins in Guild Hall

Wednesday, March 23: 7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross (potluck at 6 pm)

Thursday, March 24: 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday service with washing of the feet

Friday, March 25: 7:00 pm – Good Friday service

Saturday, March 26: 7:00 pm – Great Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 27: 9:30 am – Easter service with Easter Egg hunt and Easter Breakfast

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **St. Luke's Weekly Schedule:**

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

Mondays: 6:30 a.m. Spiritual Development Book Group – McDonalds

Tuesdays: 9 am – 10am; Sign Language  
 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bible Study  
 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. AA

Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. WE - Potluck Supper and Ministry

Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Group

Father Matt Office Hours are by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

### **Outlet Club:**

Volunteers are still needed from 3 to 6:30. Come for an hour or more to help with activities and kitchen work. There needs to be two adults every day to help with the club.

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### Treasurer's Report:

The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of February 2016, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

|            | Current month      | Year-to-date        | Budget              |
|------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income     | \$ 6,755.60        | \$ 13,400.88        | \$ 62,870.65        |
| Expense    | \$ <u>4,709.94</u> | \$ <u>11,355.72</u> | \$ <u>65,270.65</u> |
| Difference | \$ 2,045.66        | \$ 2,045.66         | \$ (2,400.00)       |

Discretionary Fund Sundays in March: Rector's is the first Sunday, March 6. Any loose money in the offertory goes to support this fund so please help as you are able to. If there is a fifth Sunday a second smaller alms basin will be passed for those pursuing seminary education.

### Welcome Orin Kestrel O'Konski

Richard, Jenny, James and Katie O'Konski have a new family member - Orin, born January 25, 2016. The ladies of the Guild held a shower of love and gifts February 21st following the worship service. There was cake, punch, nuts, mints, cookies, and fellowship. Welcome, Orin, to our church family.

### March, 2016

|                           | March 6                       | March 13                       | March 20                         | March 27                 | April 3                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Altar Guild</b>        | Linda Chmiel,<br>Joyce Elcock | Martha Miller,<br>Emily Benson | Laura Hannan,<br>Myrline Winkler | Pat Frey,<br>Ciinie Hill | Linda Chmiel,<br>Joyce Elcock |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>         | Ed Dillinger                  | Cliff Robb                     | Larry Hannan                     | Par Frey                 | Judy Hildreth                 |
| <b>Chalice Bearer</b>     | Joyce Elcock                  | Ed Dillinger                   | Myrline Winkler                  | Larry Hannan             | Ebba Robb                     |
| <b>Greeter/<br/>Usher</b> | Erica Cobb                    | Judy Hildreth                  | John Chmiel                      | Martha Miller            | Larry Hannan                  |
| <b>Coffee Host</b>        | Cobbs                         | Chmiels                        | Claudia McKinsey                 | Easter Breakfast         | Elcocks                       |
|                           |                               |                                |                                  |                          |                               |